

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for documenting home care services for providing reimbursement in the situation where a claimant has a relationship with a servicing entity, the claimant being cared for by a caregiver, the method comprising:

5 a caregiver entering the home of a claimant;

the caregiver interfacing with a data input portion, which is disposed in the home of the claimant, prior to providing a service to the claimant so as to input a first data set into the data input portion;

the caregiver providing the service to the claimant;

10 upon completion of the service, the caregiver again interfacing with the data input portion to identify completion of the service, the first data set constituting collected data; and

transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein, upon completion of the service, the caregiver again interfacing with the data input portion to identify completion of the service and so as to  
15 input a second data set into the data input portion, the first data set and the second data set constituting the collected data.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second data set includes at least one of a caregiver code and service information.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data set consists of a caregiver code.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data set comprises at least one of a caregiver code, type of service information and hourly rate information.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity is performed using a data processing entity, and wherein:

the data processing entity inputting the collected data from the data input portion;  
the data processing entity processing the collected data to generate processed collected data; and  
the data processing entity outputting the processed collected data to the servicing entity.

5           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity is performed in real time.

8.       The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity is performed on a daily basis.

10          9.       The method of claim 8, wherein the transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity is performed using a dial up connection.

10.       The method of claim 1, wherein the first data set includes caregiver code, and further including, after transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity, the servicing entity determining the service type and the hourly rate based on the caregiver code.

15          11.       The method of claim 1, further including the servicing entity determining a reimbursement amount based on the collected data, the reimbursement amount being the amount of monies to be forwarded from the servicing entity to the claimant so that the claimant may be reimbursed for payments to the caregiver.

20          12.       The method of claim 11, further including the servicing entity preparing and sending an invoice to at least one of the caregiver and the claimant, the invoice documenting information obtained by the servicing entity from the data input portion and the collected data.

13.       The method of claim 1, wherein the data input portion is disposed in the claimant's home for an extended period of time, so that the same data input portion is used by a plurality of caregivers.

14. The method of claim 13, further including mounting the data input portion on a wall in the claimant's home.

15. The method of claim 13, further including disposing the data input portion as a table top device in the claimant's home.

5 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed in sequential order.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data set includes a caregiver code of the caregiver, and the method further including, after the caregiver has input second information indicating completion of the service;

the caregiver inputting a third data set, the third data set being entered prior to the caregiver beginning additional service for the claimant, and the third data set being associated with at least one of a different rate and type of service from the first data set.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the caregiver is a neighbor of the claimant, living proximate to the claimant.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the servicing entity is an insurance company.

15 20. A system for documenting home care services for providing reimbursement in the situation where a claimant has a relationship with a servicing entity, the claimant being cared for by a caregiver, the system comprising:

a data input portion disposed in the home of the claimant, a caregiver entering the home of a claimant and interfacing with the data input portion prior to providing a service to the claimant so as to input a first data set into the data input portion, and upon completion of the service, the caregiver again interfacing with the data input portion to identify completion of the service and so as to input a second data set into the data input portion, the first data set and the second data set constituting collected data; and

a servicing entity, the data input portion transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity, and the servicing entity effecting review of the collected data so as to provide reimbursement to the caregiver.

21. The system of claim 20, further including:

5 a data processing entity, the data processing entity inputting the collected data from the data input portion, the data processing entity processing the collected data to generate processed collected data; and the data processing entity outputting the processed collected data to the servicing entity.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the data processing entity outputs the processed  
10 collected data to the servicing entity using XML.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the first data set consists of a caregiver code.

24. A method for documenting home care services for providing reimbursement in the situation where a claimant has a relationship with a servicing entity, the claimant being cared for by a caregiver, the method comprising:

15 a caregiver entering the home of a claimant;

the caregiver interfacing with a data input portion, which is disposed in the home of the claimant, prior to providing a service to the claimant so as to input a first data set into the data input portion;

the caregiver providing the service to the claimant;

20 upon completion of the service, the caregiver again interfacing with the data input portion to identify completion of the service, the first data set constituting collected data; and

transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity; and

wherein the first data set consists of a caregiver code;

wherein the transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity is performed using a data processing entity, and wherein:

the data processing entity inputting the collected data from the data input portion;

the data processing entity processing the collected data to generate processed

5 collected data; and

the data processing entity outputting the processed collected data to the servicing entity; and

further including, after transmitting the collected data to the servicing entity, the servicing entity determining the service type and the hourly rate based on the caregiver code.

10 25. The method of claim 24 further including the servicing entity determining a reimbursement amount based on the collected data, the reimbursement amount being the amount of monies to be forwarded from the servicing entity to the claimant so that the claimant may be reimbursed for payments to the caregiver.

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